**Essential Understandings**

- We are a true multi-cultural society that functions very successfully with a high level of religious, ethnic, and racial diversity.
- Frustration-Aggression Hypothesis is one of the theories that explains racism.
- Race and ethnicity are social constructs.
- Economic conflict is a major cause of racism.
- Minority groups reflect patterns of economic and political domination in the structure of American society.
- Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, and Native Americans are the four major minority groups in the U.S.
- Affirmative Action is a very controversial program to combat inequities of our system.
- Minority groups are characterized by prejudice, discrimination, unequal distribution of power and opportunity.
- Despite the victories of the 60’s Civil Rights Movement discrimination and prejudice are still pervasive.
- We are a nation that upholds the idea of equality.
- When different racial and ethnic groups meet, typically either conflict or accommodation results.
- Race is both a myth and a reality.

**Essential Questions**

- How do race and ethnicity differ?
- Why are people racist?
- How do psychologists explain racism?
- How is race both a reality and a myth?
- How do Sociologists explain racism?
- What patterns of conflict and domination have occurred over time in the U.S.?
- What patterns of accommodation develop in interracial and interethnic conflict?
- What are the major racial and ethnic groups in the United States?
- What strategies have been used to eliminate discrimination?
- What is Apartheid?
- What is the future of race relations?
- What changes have taken place with Affirmative Action?
- What determines ethnic identify?
- What is the history of racism in the U.S.?
- How is the U.S. similar or different from other world countries with regard to race?
### Essential Knowledge

- Internal Colonialism is the dominant group exploiting the minority for economic advantage.
- Conflict theorists analyze how groups are pitted against each other.
- Ethnic groups and minority groups share several conditions.
- Assimilation is a process by which a majority group is absorbed into the mainstream culture.
- Minority groups can change and be created in several ways.
- Individual and institutional discrimination are common in the U.S.
- The U.S. welcomes immigration and fears the consequences.
- Segregation is the separation of racial and ethnic groups.
- Prejudice is a learned trait.
- Race is both a myth and a reality.
- Race is firmly embedded in our culture and it is a very powerful force.
- Genocide has been practiced for centuries in many countries and still exists today.
- Symbolic interactions examine how labels affect perceptions and create prejudice that leads to discrimination.
- Affirmative action has positive and negative results.
- Functionalism is shaped by social environment.

### Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>affirmative action, Apartheid, assimilation, colonialism, de facto segregation, de jure segregation, discrimination, ethnic group, frustration aggression theory, integration, individual racism, institutional racism, Jim Crow laws, internal colonialism, minority groups, pluralism, prejudice, race, racism, scapegoat, underclass</td>
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### Essential Skills

- Take notes accurately and efficiently.
- Memorize required materials.
- Complete expository writing with documents and readings.
- Interpret statistics.
- Identify cause and effect relationships.
**A. Applications of Social Studies Processes, Knowledge, and Skills**

**A1. Researching and Developing Positions on Current Social Studies Issues**

Students research, develop, present, and defend positions on current social studies issues by developing and modifying research questions, and locating, selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing information from multiple and varied sources.

- **a.** Develop research questions related to a current social studies issue.
- **b.** Select and apply research methods that are appropriate for the purpose of the inquiry.
- **c.** Make judgments about conflicting findings from different sources, incorporating those from sources that are valid and refuting others.
- **d.** Synthesize information from varied sources, fieldwork, experiments, and/or interviews that reflect multiple perspectives.
- **e.** Utilize media relevant to audience and purpose that extend and support oral, written, and visual communication.
- **f.** Create and present a coherent set of findings that integrate paraphrasing, quotations, and citations.
- **g.** Develop a clear well-supported position.
- **h.** Present and defend a well-supported position to a variety of audiences using a prescribed format.
- **i.** Select and use appropriate tools, methods, and sources from government, history, geography, economics, or related fields including ethical reasoning skills.
- **j.** Access and present information ethically and legally.

**A2. Making Decisions Using Social Studies Knowledge and Skills**

Students make individual and collaborative decisions on matters related to social studies using relevant information and research, discussion, and ethical reasoning skills.

- **a.** Develop individual and collaborative decisions/plans by considering multiple points of view, weighing pros and cons, building on the ideas of others, and sharing information in an attempt to sway the opinions of others.
- **b.** Make a real or simulated decision related to the classroom, school, community, civic organization, Maine, United States, or international entity by applying appropriate and relevant social studies knowledge and skills, including research skills, ethical reasoning skills, and other relevant information.
## Sample Lessons And Activities
- Textbook readings and questions
- Notes
- Reading and interpreting
- Jeopardy game
- Choose a topic and give a presentation to the class

## Sample Classroom Assessment Methods
- Quizzes
- Exam
- Several short papers
- Review game
- Essay writing
- Reading questions
- Oral questioning during class

## Sample Resources
- **Publications:**
  - *Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach* – Allyn and Bacon